

~~TOP SECRET~~APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: MAR 2001STATUS REPORT  
ON  
COVERT ACTIONS IN VIETNAM  
(Keyed to 28 November Report)1. a. Montagnard (Highlander) Program:

Eighteen highlander paramilitary teams (averaging 12 men per team) completed training and departed for five central Vietnam provinces where each team will be assigned selected districts.

Twenty-one intelligence officers for highlander net began operations in 21 districts of five highland provinces.

b. Rural Reconstruction Operations:

No significant change.

c. Para-Military/Intelligence Operations Against Viet CongEO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs  
EO 12958 3.4(b)(6)>25Yrs  
(C)EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs  
EO 12958 3.4(b)(6)>25Yrs  
(C)EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs  
EO 12958 3.4(b)(6)>25Yrs  
(C)

\_\_\_\_\_ Viet Cong mined and booby trapped trails in area and prepared one ambush. Friendly losses, one killed, four wounded. Ambush dispersed by attack of CLAS unit. CLAS unit retreated \_\_\_\_\_ booby trapping trail behind them. Booby trap exploded by pursuing enemy force within 15 minutes after trap prepared. CLAS unit heard screams and cries of enemy wounded.

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d. Central Intelligence Organization:

The commissioner of the Central Intelligence Organization (CIO) and other ranking CIO officers are planning to separate counter intelligence and communist penetration functions of the NPSS and to assign these functions to the Domestic Intelligence and Counter Espionage Service (DICS). The DICS has been previously identified as the Domestic Intelligence Service (DIS). A close working relationship between the DICS and the CIO is planned with the DICS relying upon the police at the village level to supply operational leads and logistical support.

Planning initiated with the DICS for establishment of units to concentrate upon identification and location of Viet Cong bands interrupting main highways, to provide targets for attack by regular military units.

e through i: No significant change:

2 through 6: No significant change.

7. Other Activities:

High levels of GVN discussed centralization of planning for the strategic hamlet program, possibly by interministerial committee. [REDACTED]

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(S)

Eight civic-action ministry instructors completed six-week off-shore paramilitary and intelligence course. Returned Saigon and beginning instruction of civic action team members.

Class of 182 civic-action team members, including 22 young women, began six-week paramilitary training course near Da Nang (Tourane), which will stress defensive tactics related to organization of strategic hamlets.